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Director, Central Intelligence Agency

20 July 1948

Regg Assistant Director, ORE

Current Soviet Grain Situation

IM-45

1. It is estimated that the USSR will have available from its current crop about 7,600,000 metric tons of grain for stockpiling and export. This is about 1,500,000 metric tons below the comparable figure for 1947.

2. The total Soviet grain acreage this year exceeds that of last year by about 10 per cent, and the estimated 1948 grain production will be about the same as that of 1947 (estimated at 76,000,000 metric tons).

3. The decrease in the quantity available for stockpiling and export is attributable to increased domestic requirements for (a) human consumption, (b) seed grain for planting the 1949 crop, (c) feed for livestock, and (d) grain for industrial use.

4. In the satellite countries the grain situation is considerably more favorable than last year, and probably will permit the diversion of some Soviet grain exports from Eastern to Western Europe. The USSR can thus maintain its exports to Western Europe without adversely affecting its stockpiling at home (shipments from the 1947 crop to non-satellite countries as of April totalled 2.9 million metric tons). The Soviet grain situation probably will be further improved if Hungary, as has been reported, pays its remaining reparations to the USSR in agricultural products.

5. From the foregoing, it appears that the USSR is fully capable of feeding the entire Berlin population from Soviet-controlled stocks if it so desires.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

THEODORE BARRETT

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